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LETTER DATED 17 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter, dated 17 May 1993, from myself to the Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 17 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

I regret to inform you of another act of cultural genocide committed against the Muslim population of Banja Luka by Serbian occupation authorities. On 11 May, Saturday at 1:00 local time, the Vrbanja mosque in the suburbs of BAnja Luka was destroyed by explosion.

It has also been reported that these occupation authorities have begun to remove and dispose of the remains of the Vrbanja mosque, as well as the remains of the Ferhadija and Armoudija mosques (see the attached S/25738). While these mosques have been destroyed, their remnants are still historically and culturally valuable, and continue to be representative of Muslim civilization in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Further, it is reported that many of these remains are in good enough condition so that they may still be physically used in future construction efforts.

These remains have cultural, historical and physical values, and as such, their preservation is essential. Bearing these facts in mind, the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina requests that UNESCO take all measures within its competency to ensure that these remains be protected and preserved.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative